(d) High sugarcane arrears in one of the factors which could discourage the farmers from cultivation of sugarcane.

(e) and (f) The Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 contains the necessary provisions for timely payment of cane price to the cane growers for the sugarcane supplied by them to the sugar mills.

Foodgrains to each household

1739. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would ensure that no one goes hungry and will provide 35 kg. of foodgrain per month to each household that would cost a little more than 2 per cent of GDP while given largesse nearly Rs. 3 lakh crores as tax benefits and other concessions to corporate over the past year;

(b) whether Government is aware that inadequate and even worsening conditions of nutrition have made India among the worst nutrition indicators in the world; and

(c) if so, the reasons why there is persistent increase in food prices resulting in reducing the ability of many more households to access sufficient food?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) Targeted Public Distribution System is focused on poor families as estimated by Planning Commission. Government of India allocates foodgrains at rate of 35 kg. per Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) family per month at subsidized prices. The State/Union Territory (UT) Governments have to deliver these foodgrains to eligible BPL and AAY ration card holders. For Above Poverty Line (APL) category of ration card holders, Central Government allocates foodgrains to States/UTs at the rate of 10 to 35 kg. per family per month. However, in order to protect the vulnerable sections, the Central Issue Prices for rice and wheat have remained unchanged for the last 7-9 years and are as given below:

	BPL	AAY	APL
Rice (Rs. per kg.)	5.65	3.00	8.30
Wheat (Rs. per kg.)	4.15	2.00	6.10

However, it is not possible to allocate foodgrains at the rate of 35 kg. per APL family per month for all APL households.

(b) As reported by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, level of malnutrition among children in India is high.

(c) The rise in prices of foodgrains is due to a number of factors such as growing demand

on account of increase in population and income, hardening of international prices, changes in consumption patterns, adverse climatic changes, market expectations and sentiments, etc.

Allocation of wheat and rice to State Governments

1740. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of allocation of rice and wheat to States from the Central Pool, State-wise;

(b) whether Government has received requests from State Governments for enhancement of the present allocation of foodgrains;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) the action taken by Government on such requests of the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) to (d) Government allocates foodgrains to States and UTs under TPDS based on allocation norms. For 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) families which include 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families, foodgrains are allocated to all States and UTs at the scale of 35 kg per family per month. For the Above Poverty Line (APL) families, Government allocates foodgrains to States and UTs based on availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool and offtake levels in the Past. The present allocations under this category range between 10 and 35 kg per family per month in different States.

State-wise details of allocations of foodgrains made under TPDS to State/UT Governments for AAY, BPL and APL categories for the current year 2009-10 are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

Requests have been received from some State Governments for enhancement of allocations of foodgrains under TPDS, based on which Government has made additional allocations under APL category. As compared to last year, the allocations under this category for current year have been increased from 11.2 million tons to 19.02 million tons. A comparative statement on State-wise APL allocations made during 2008-09 and 2009-10 is given in Statement-II (*See* below).

Government also made additional allocations of foodgrains for drought relief, State-wise details of such allocations made during the current year are given in Statement-III (*See* below). Further, in order to check inflationary trends in food economy, Government has allocated rice and wheat to State/UT Governments under Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) for distribution to retail consumers and for sale to bulk consumers, their details are given in Statement-IV.